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FORD BRINGS PRESIDENTIAL STUDY CONFERENCE HOME
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Former President Gerald Ford will serve as host when a distinguished contingent of government officials and lawmakers gather for a fall conference focusing on the president's role in national security affairs.

Ford is returning to his old home town to chair the New York-based Center for the Study of the Presidency's 16th annual conference, said center President R. Gordon Hoxie.

Hoxie said Thursday Canadian Exterior Minister Joe Clark, Central Intelligence Agency director William Casey and outgoing Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. John W. Vessey Jr. are among those planning to participate in the schedule of debates and panel discussions.

Set for Nov. 1-3 in Grand Rapids, the conclave will be the New York-based Center for the Study of the Presidency's 16th annual conference, Hoxie said.

Ford will be the event's keynote speaker and U.S. Information Agency Director Charles Wick or his deputy, former U.S. News & World Report editor Marvin Stone are also likely to attend, Hoxie said.

Formed as a non-partisan, non-profit educational corporation in 1969 at the suggestion of former President Dwight Eisenhower, the center hosts Canadian and American students who study an aspect of the presidency under fellowships, he said.

The November conference is being co-sponsored by the locally based World Affairs Council of Western Michigan.

Other panelists are to include NBC television White House correspondent Andrea Mitchell and Reps. Les Aspin, D-Wis., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence.